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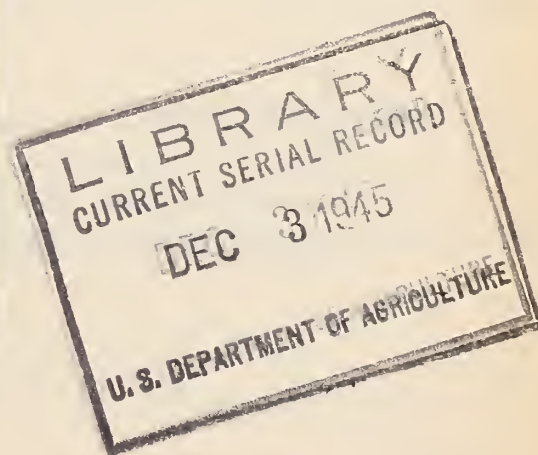
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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What's This Hay Worth?

"This hay wouldn't make good beddin'."

"Man, what are you talking about? That's as good hay as any we put up in my part of the country."

And so the argument has gone on and on--usually with the buyer and the seller becoming convinced that the other fellow is trying to cheat. Both of them could be perfectly sincere, both could be trying their best to tell the truth.

To anyone acquainted with the type of alfalfa produced in sections of southern California, the hay produced in areas of nightly dews and occasional rains in the eastern parts of the United States may look like bedding. The Northeastern dairy farmer wants good green hay, not brown stemmy hay.

Many a time the arguments go on until either the buyer or the seller makes a concession on price. Then he writes the other fellow's name in his black book and calls it a day.

If that is the way the transfer of hay from one part of the country to another always took place you wouldn't call it a very good way. One man has some hay to sell, another has some cows that need hay. Can't they get together without misunderstanding?

The answer is that they surely can--easily.

U. S. Grades

They can deal on the basis of U. S. grades of hay. The buyer can do the same thing that the U. S. Government itself does: he can say that he wants so much U. S. No. 1 alfalfa hay or any of the other grades and kinds. On the other hand, if he has to sell he can say that he has U. S. No. 2 alfalfa or whatever it is.

The buyer or seller who has never used the grades might wonder why the words in the U. S. grades are any better than the words he has used. But when the seller said he was selling green hay, the buyer said it wasn't green at all. There were many points about which there could be a dispute.

As against that situation, let's see how the words in the official hay standards have come to mean the same thing from one end of the country to the other. Take green, the color that all hay buyers want in their purchases. The green of the alfalfa in Colorado is one color, that of timothy in New York is another, and of lespedeza in Tennessee is still another. Which of these greens is meant in the official standards?

Specialists at the Department of Agriculture have learned a lot about how to define "green" in terms of hue, chroma, and brilliance. When you have followed all the definitions they'll tell you that it is only hue that matters in hay; it doesn't make any difference whether it is a light green or a dark green, a bright or a dull one. Then to show you just how they tell whether hay has the amount of green needed to conform to the standard for a certain grade, they will take you to a machine in the hay laboratory. That machine through an arrangement of lenses and mirrors focuses the color of the green of the hay in the upper half of a circle that looks about as large as a dime, and focuses the mixed colors of two color plates on the other half of that circle. Different mixtures of the two color plates can be made by varying the proportion of green and buff. When the two colors in the dime-size disk exactly match, you can look at the color plates and tell whether the color is what the physicists call green or whether it is a combination of that and some other color. It is just a matter of matching the colors in the two halves of the circle, and then reading the figures on the color charts. The color charts were the same yesterday as they are today and will be tomorrow. They are the same in New Hampshire as in Nevada, Ohio, and Oregon.

Colorometer

This colorometer (color-measuring machine) is used only to measure the color in samples of hay. These samples illustrate the color range from the top to the bottom of a given type of hay, such as alfalfa, timothy, or prairie hay. These samples are tested in hay-grading schools in teaching inspectors the color requirements of the different hay types.

What about some of the other points covered by the grades--leafiness for example? If you visited the laboratory you could see how samples are separated into the portions that are leaf and stems, and how separations of the same kind are made to determine exactly how much foreign matter there is in a given sample. And percentage figures are the same in all parts of the country; there is no ambiguity about the meaning of the percentage of leaves or of foreign matter.

As it is with these three factors so with others. The words in the standards have the same meaning wherever and whenever they are used.

That is one good reason for using the U. S. hay grades.

There is another one that parallels it pretty well. Feeding value in general varies with the grade of hay--the higher the grade the higher the feeding value. Just take protein and vitamin A content as indicative of the feeding value of hay. No. 1 alfalfa has 16 percent protein, No. 3 has only 12 percent. No. 1 alfalfa has from 6 to 10 times as much vitamin A in it as No. 3.

And there's a third good reason. You can enlist the services of an expert and impartial hay grader to tell exactly what the grade of the hay is. If misunderstanding and disagreement get into a United States court, the certificate of the grade will be taken as prima facie evidence of the grade.

So they enable farmers who have hay to sell to describe it exactly. They enable other farmers to tell exactly what kind of hay they want. And they are interpreted and enforced by a well-trained and impartial group of inspectors whose services are available anywhere in the country. Those are three good recommendations for the U. S. hay grades.

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WFO'S 22.8 AND 22.9 AMENDED

On October 8 USDA terminated all provisions of WFO 22.8 (the fruit order) except the reporting requirements, and eliminated all items except canned tomatoes from the set-aside requirements of WFO 22.9 (the vegetable order). The set-aside for canned tomatoes was reduced from 36 to 16 percent. In addition, the provision requiring canners to set aside for Government purchase all quantities of canned tomatoes they packed above 200 percent of their base-period pack was deleted from WFO 22.9.

The action, taken through amendment 6 to WFO 22.8 and amendment 6 to WFO 22.9, both effective October 8, ended set-aside requirements for canned fruits and fruit juices except citrus and for canned vegetables and canned vegetable juices except tomatoes and followed the September 14 announcement that additional quantities for these products would be available to civilians as the result of reduced Government needs.

Approximately 44 million cases of all canned fruits and fruit juices excluding citrus will be available to civilians during the 1945 marketing period. This compares with approximately 33 million cases available to civilians for the same period last year and approximately 43 million cases 2 years ago. As the result of the amendment the supply of all canned vegetables and canned vegetable juices (including baked beans and baby food) available to civilians during the 1945 marketing period will be approximately 250 million cases, compared with 205 million cases during the same period last year and approximately 200 million cases 2 years ago.

MEAT SET-ASIDE ORDERS AMENDED

Set-aside orders reinstated recently to obtain beef, veal, and mutton for the United Kingdom, France, Holland, and Belgium, were amended on October 18 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to adjust the orders to the needs of the purchasing program for these countries. The amendments are applicable to WFO's 75.2 (beef), 75.4 (veal), and 75.6 (mutton).

The action does not affect materially the quantity of all meats to be available to United States civilians. Total supplies anticipated for civilians for the October-December quarter are based on consumption at the annual rate of 148 pounds per capita, with purchases for foreign countries amounting to 500-600 million pounds for the same period.

Effective October 21, 1945, the amendments exempt federally inspected slaughterers in 10 States from all set-aside requirements, exclude from the set-aside all beef produced from bulls and stags, and remove the definition of "Army-style" beef. In addition, the amended orders no longer require packaging of set-aside meat products according to Army specifications, but provide for packaging in accordance with specifications of the purchasing agencies.

The 10 States exempted from all set-aside requirements are Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, Washington, Oregon, California, and Florida. These States were exempted in order to avoid the purchase of meats in areas so far removed from ports that transportation expenses would be excessive.

Slightly more beef for set-aside purposes was expected to result from the removal of the weight limitations imposed in the definition of Army-style beef. This will partly offset the reduced quantity expected to result from cancellation of the set-aside of beef from bulls and stags and the exemption of production in the 10 States.

The amended orders still require the set-aside by federally inspected slaughterers (except in the exempted States) of 30 percent of the conversion weight of each week's production of U. S. Commercial grade, 40 percent of U. S. Utility grade, and 50 percent of Cutter and Canner grades produced from steers, heifers, and cows. Set-aside requirements, except in the 10 States exempted, also remain at 40 percent of the conversion weight of each week's production of U. S. Utility grade veal, and 20 percent of the Choice, Good, Commercial, and Utility grades of mutton.

POTATO DIVERSION STARTED

The diversion of potatoes for the manufacture of butyl alcohol, an ingredient of paints and lacquers and a source of synthetic rubber, at

a large plant in Philadelphia was announced on October 16 by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The plant was receiving potatoes at the rate of 35 cars a day and was expected to handle 75 cars a day by October 25. Progress also is being made for the use of ethyl alcohol plants at Omaha, Nebr., and Muscatine, Iowa, to utilize surplus potatoes for the production of motor fuel and antifreeze solutions. The Muscatine plant was starting operations at the time of the announcement.

The diversion to the Philadelphia plant was designed to utilize the large surplus of "intermediate"-crop New Jersey potatoes and surplus potatoes from other nearby areas in Pennsylvania, New York, and New England. Large quantities of intermediate varieties were purchased by the Department in New Jersey for price-support purposes and were being held in temporary storage. Such potatoes cannot be stored satisfactorily over winter and, because of the large surplus of late-crop potatoes, they are not needed for table use. This was the first time potatoes had been used commercially for the manufacture of this industrial product.

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COTTON FOR PAPER PROGRAM

A diversion program for using cotton in the manufacture of paper was announced by USDA on October 5. The program is designed (1) to develop new uses for cotton, (2) to help reduce the large surplus stocks of short-staple, low-grade cotton, (3) to furnish additional critically needed raw material for making high-grade paper, and (4) to aid in providing warehouse space needed for the new crop.

A maximum of 50 million pounds of cotton not less than 3/4 inch in staple, and of grades not lower than the lowest grade in the universal standards for American Upland cotton may be used under the program.

"Rag-content" paper manufacturers who receive approved applications from the Department, on compliance with program provisions, may receive incentive payments on the amount by which the cost of cotton delivered at paper mills exceeds 8½¢ per pound. The maximum rate of payment under the program, however, will be 4¢ per pound. Under present ceiling prices on rag-content paper, payments up to 4¢ per pound are necessary to enable manufacturers to utilize cotton at 12½¢ to 13¢ per pound (delivered) as compared with rags and clippings at much lower prices.

Much of the cotton to be used under this program is expected to go into the manufacture of papers for bonds, currency, photographs, maps, insurance policies, and other uses which require paper that must stand considerable handling, or which must last for a long period.

Purchases by manufacturers may be made either from the Commodity Credit Corporation or elsewhere. CCC sales may be made at 12¢ per pound f. o. b. southern shipping points.

Labels for DDT

When DDT began to appear in the civilian market, a good many people naturally had misgivings. Would not so potent a bug killer be dangerous to human beings? Was it equally good for killing all household insect pests? If not, how could the retail purchaser be sure he was getting the right combination of ingredients to kill the particular kind of bug that was giving him trouble? Could he rely on the label?

The retail purchaser might have rested easier had he known that under the Federal Insecticide Act there already existed a provision requiring accurate labeling, and in certain cases the stating of ingredients, for all insecticides (as well as fungicides and disinfectants) that move in interstate commerce, and that in the administration of the act the U. S. Department of Agriculture had examined thousands of brands of insecticides to safeguard the public and check the effectiveness of these products.

Efficacy Claims

The efficacy of products containing DDT as the only insecticide depends upon how much of the active ingredient is present. Accordingly, when inert ingredients are present a statement on the label is required of the name and percentage amount of DDT and other active ingredients, along with the total percentage of inert ingredients--or at least a statement of the name and percentage amount of each inert ingredient. If the product is composed entirely of active ingredients no statement of ingredients is necessary.

The product may be composed of various mixtures and contain active ingredients other than DDT. Normal impurities in technical DDT are considered active ingredients. Kerosene is an active ingredient when used as a contact insecticide to slay household insects; therefore technical DDT and kerosene solutions of DDT do not require an ingredient statement. The statement "Active Ingredients 100%" is acceptable. Inert ingredients and inert types of emulsifiers or the presence of water must be noted on the label. Since carriers used in powders are usually inert, the labels used must bear an ingredient statement.

All of the various compounds in technical DDT have not been determined. For this reason dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane--which includes 2,2-bis(parachlorophenyl)1,1,1-trichloroethane isomers--may be considered as an active ingredient. Acceptable forms of labeling for an insecticide containing technical DDT as its only active constituent are:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| ACTIVE INGREDIENT | |
| Dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane | _____% |
| INERT INGREDIENTS | _____% |
| Total | 100% |

or, if the technical DDT has a minimum setting point of 88° C.--

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| ACTIVE INGREDIENT | |
| Dichloro diphenyl trichloroethane | _____% |
| (DDT setting point 88° minimum) | |
| INERT INGREDIENTS | _____% |
| Total | 100% |

Other active ingredients should be stated, if present, and percentages of both active and inert ingredients filled in.

To be suitable for different purposes, insecticides may contain DDT in various compounds and mixtures. DDT may be used in solutions in kerosene, deodorized kerosene, or other mineral oil--perhaps with other insecticides added. Or it may be used in an oil solvent with an emulsifier to be mixed with water. It may be used in powders to be used as dusts, sprays, or paints with pyrophyllite, talc, or clay acting as the inert carrier. And it may be used in "aerosols" consisting of DDT, possibly other insecticides, and a propellant such as Freon.

Directions for Use Needed

Labels on insecticides containing DDT should state the purpose for which the insecticide is intended and give clear and full directions for use against different types of household insects. For example, against flies, mosquitoes, and gnats, 1 percent of DDT in kerosene is eventually effective when used as a spray, but it is slow acting. If quick action is desired, the addition of some other toxicant is necessary. It is possible to gain a residual effect--which is DDT's outstanding characteristic--by using 200 milligrams of DDT per square foot. This will be effective up to 3 or 4 months unless removed by weathering, washing, or other means. A 5 percent concentration in oil or water will leave such a deposit. Walls, doors, painted woodwork, and light fixtures should be treated, filling spaces especially attractive to insects, such as those near lights. On the other hand, some mosquitoes lurk in dark places and such places need treatment.

The Insecticide Act does not require poison labels on insecticides. It does require, however, that the labeling of such products shall not be misleading. Recommendations for use are considered misleading if they will result in injury to persons or animals. Since there is a certain hazard in the use of preparations containing DDT, a caution labeling for them is recommended. The following suggested cautions have been prepared after consultation with authorities on toxicity:

1. For straight DDT technical--
CAUTION: DDT is toxic and when in solution can be absorbed through the skin. Avoid inhaling dusts, and mist from spray. Avoid contamination of foodstuffs.
2. For petroleum oil solutions containing not more than 25 percent DDT technical--
CAUTION: This solution if brought into repeated or prolonged contact with skin can cause toxic symptoms. Avoid excessive inhalation and skin contact. In case of spillage on the skin, wash with soap and water. Avoid contamination of foodstuffs. Do not use on household pets or humans.
3. For petroleum oil solutions containing more than 25 percent DDT technical--
CAUTION: This solution if brought into contact with skin can cause toxic symptoms. Avoid inhalation and skin contact. In case of spillage on the skin wash immediately with soap and water. Avoid contamination of foodstuffs. Do not use on household pets or humans.
4. For emulsions containing not more than 25 percent DDT technical--
Same as (2) above.
5. For emulsions containing more than 25 percent DDT technical--
Same as (3) above.
6. For combustible mixtures--
Same as above, and add: CAUTION: Do not spray into or near fire or open flame. Do not smoke while spraying.
7. For dust and powder formulations--
CAUTION: Avoid excessive inhalation. Avoid contamination of foodstuffs.

If the preparation contains other hazardous ingredients or solvents, appropriate additional cautions must be added.

It is the opinion of toxicologists that the white household powders and dusts should be colored. This recommendation for coloration is made solely for the protection of human life, but does not mean that the product is toxic to man to the extent that it requires a poison label with skull and crossbones.

Statements About DDT Content

In view of the great publicity that has been given to DDT, there is a tendency to overemphasize references to DDT on the label, as by using it in the name or by printing it in such large letters as to overshadow other reading matter on the label. Such names as "DDT Spray,"

"DDT Powder," or "Doe's DDT Insecticide" are not acceptable. It is a general rule of labeling that if a name is to be descriptive, it must be completely descriptive. A product containing 5 percent of DDT in kerosene is not a "DDT spray" but is a "kerosene and DDT spray." - A 10 percent mixture of DDT in clay would be a "clay and DDT powder" rather than a "DDT powder."

If a preparation contains enough DDT to be effective against all the insects named on the label there is no objection to a statement that it "contains DDT," provided the word "contains" is in the same size type and equally as prominent as the term "DDT" and that they are not more prominent than the name of the product.

Some preparations are being made by merely adding DDT in small amounts to another insecticide, the DDT being present in too small an amount to be effective against some or all of the insects named. An unmodified statement that the product contains DDT would give the misleading impression that it contains enough DDT to be effective against all the insects named. To avoid such a misleading impression, if any reference at all is made, the label should state definitely the amount of DDT present--as, for example, "Contains 3 percent DDT."

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MORE CANNED FISH RELEASED FROM SET-ASIDE RESTRICTIONS

As a result of substantially reduced military requirements, U. S. civilians will receive more canned fish from the 1945 pack than at any time since 1942, USDA announced on October 10. At the same time, increased supplies were being made available for overseas relief feeding. These increases are made possible by action taken in amendment 15 to WFO 44, effective October 9, 1945.

The amendment reduced set-aside percentages for the 1945 pack of canned red, coho, steelhead, pink, and chum salmon, from 40 to 30 percent of each class. It also reduced set-aside percentages for Atlantic sea herring and Maine sardines to 30 percent of the fish packed during the period September 30, 1945, to March 31, 1946. The 1945 pack of fish in this class, canned from April 1 to September 29, 1945, is still subject to a 65 percent set-aside.

Also, the amendment made the 65 percent set-aside on canned Atlantic mackerel applicable only to fish packed during the period April 1 to September 29, 1945, inclusive. None of the canned Atlantic mackerel packed after September 29 is now reserved for Government procurement.

Set-aside percentages for canned pilchards and Pacific mackerel were reduced from 65 to 45 percent of the entire 1945 pack. The

100 percent set-aside for flaked fish produced from cod and haddock applies only to fish flakes produced during the period May 20 to September 29, 1945. None of this flaked fish packed after September 29 is now reserved for delivery to the Government.

The privilege, previously allowed each canner, of delivering up to 60,000 pounds more than his required set-aside for each class, was withdrawn.

Approximately 423 million pounds of canned fish were made available to civilians from the 1942 pack, and it was estimated that civilians will get close to 400 million pounds from the 1945 pack. Civilian supply of canned fish last year was about 308 million pounds, and when the original allocation of the 1945 pack of canned fish was made in April, it was estimated that civilians would receive about 200 million pounds.

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U. S. TO GET CANNED FISH FROM SOUTH AMERICA

Approximately 6 million pounds of canned sardines, tuna, and tuna-like fish will become available immediately for importation into the United States from South America, USDA announced on October 9.

Included in the lot will be about 2 million pounds of canned sardines, packed in oil in 3-3/4 ounce cans, from Venezuela, and about 4 million pounds of tuna and tuna-like fish from all South American countries. These products previously were allocated to the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration, but because of their high price in relation to other canned fish, they were not suitable for relief use. They were not assigned to other claimants because of practical difficulties connected with such allocation.

For the types of canned fish thus released from allocation, import authorizations under WFO 63 will be granted to all applicants without restriction.

The total will consist of approximately 100,000 cases of brisling sardines, about 175,000 cases of sild (musse) sardines, and about 100,000 cases of kippered herring.

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1945-46 CANNED FISH ALLOCATION ANNOUNCED

A revised allocation of canned fish for the 12 months which began last July 1 providing substantially greater quantities than previously

allocated for U. S. civilians and for foreign relief feeding was announced by the Department of Agriculture on October 4. It was emphasized, however, that in view of the deficit world supply of canned fish, the amount available to the United States was still far short of its combined domestic and foreign requirements.

The increased allocation for civilian use resulted in part from a slightly higher over-all production, but chiefly from the fact that military requirements had been cut back sharply to one-third of the previous year's taking. The larger allocation of canned fish for civilians made possible the reduction of ration-point values on the commodity during October, officials also pointed out.

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USDA ANNOUNCES DISTRIBUTION PLAN FOR CANNED FISH IMPORTS

In connection with plans for the distribution of canned fish supplies from major exporting countries during the fiscal year 1945-46, the Department of Agriculture announced on October 2 that 10.8 million pounds of canned fish from Norway had been made available for importation into the United States. (During the years 1937-39 an average of more than 10,000,000 pounds of canned fish, packed in airtight containers, was imported annually into the United States from Norway. Of this amount, 8,390,000 pounds were canned sardines and herring.)

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RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF RAIN-DAMAGED RAISINS FOR BEVERAGE MANUFACTURE REMOVED

The Department of Agriculture on October 16 removed restrictions on the sale, purchase, or use of rain-damaged raisins and Zante currants of the 1945 crop in the manufacture of beverages and nonfood products and byproducts.

Department officials explained that the restrictions were lifted because recent rains in California had damaged raisins in process of drying and that substantial losses might occur unless some were allowed to be processed into beverages. It was anticipated that the removal of restrictions would continue in effect only long enough to permit marketing the rain-affected portion of this year's crop. The quantity of rain-damaged raisins that would be diverted for beverage use was not expected to affect civilian supplies of raisins, since under present market conditions it is more advantageous to sell standard-quality raisins for direct use than for use in beverage manufacture. The action was taken under amendment 6 to WFO 16.

Automatic Cotton-Bale Sampler

The Department of Agriculture has developed an automatic cotton-bale sampler that will, when it has been adopted generally by ginner, fill two needs in U. S. cotton marketing--a better-looking bale, and a sample that truly reflects the quality of the cotton throughout the bale.

As bales are sampled today, a man with a knife cuts a big handful from each of the two sides of the bale. Practically every bale is hacked in this manner several times during the course of its movement from the gin to the cotton mill. As a result, the bale gets ragged-looking and loses several pounds in weight. Moreover, the fees for sampling, repeated several times, represent a sizable part of the spread between grower prices and manufacturer prices--a spread which most cotton people agree must be cut down if cotton is to compete successfully with other fibers and foreign-produced cotton.

In addition, the present sampling method does not provide samples that reflect the true quality of the cotton throughout the bale because in many cases the bales are mixed-packed, so that a sample cut out of the sides would not necessarily reflect the quality of the cotton throughout the bale. As a result a buyer who needs a specific quality of cotton for a specific use cannot be sure of getting a whole bale of such cotton on the basis of the cut sample.

How It Works

The automatic sampler obtains a sample of the contents of the entire bale during the ginning process. In a gin, after cotton lint is separated from the seed it is sucked through a length of lint flue (a wide pipe), collected in a condenser, and turned into the gin-bale press. The automatic sampler can be fitted to the ordinary lint flue. An aerofoil swing valve which is opened intermittently by an automatic turning mechanism during the ginning of a particular bale diverts a small part of the stream of lint into the much smaller box that is to hold the sample. The swing valve automatically opens six times during the ginning of that bale, and diverts a representative pound of that lint stream into the sample press at the same time that the lint to form the 500-pound bale goes to the gin press.

A recent modification of the sampling equipment permits installation of the sample press on the press deck, where it is handy to the gin-press attendant. The sampler may be geared into standard gin equipment at reasonable cost. Although the automatic mechanical equipment as originally conceived is not yet fully perfected to the extent of providing an automatically packaged and marked sample, the equipment for automatic extraction is fully perfected and has functioned satisfactorily at several commercial gins.

It is estimated that acceptance of this apparatus by ginner and marketing agencies would reduce marketing costs by approximately a dollar a bale. This would squeeze 10 or 12 million dollars out of the cost of marketing the American farmer's annual cotton crop.

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ORDERS RESTRICTING USE OF GRAIN ELEVATION UNLOADING FACILITIES TERMINATED

The U. S. Department of agriculture and the Office of Defense Transportation on October 22 jointly announced the termination of WFO 114 and ODT Order 25A, respectively.

These orders required permits for the use of elevation facilities for unloading grain from vessels at any United States point or port on the Great Lakes, connecting waters, or the St. Lawrence River, and required permits for the use of ships for transporting such grain. Purpose of the orders was to assure orderly grain movement and to make certain that adequate amounts of desired varieties were available for war shipping needs to Europe.

During the life of the orders (since September 14, 1944) permits were granted which permitted the elevation of 365 million bushels of grain at lake ports.

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FIVE FATS AND OILS ORDERS TERMINATED

USDA has terminated, effective October 1, five War Food Orders that were issued during the war to assure sufficient supplies of certain strategic fats and oils. The orders: WFO 53, issued May 25, 1943, controlling red oil deliveries; WFO 87, issued March 31, 1945, controlling fatty acid inventories; WFO 129, issued March 31, 1945, controlling deliveries of stearic acid; WFO 136, issued June 27, 1945, controlling tall oil deliveries; and WFO 137, issued June 29, 1945, allocating castor oil.

Because the end of the war has enabled the military services to terminate many contracts and to reduce many others which required these strategic raw materials, the orders were no longer necessary.

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LINSEED OIL INVENTORIES ORDER AMENDED

Because distribution of linseed oil was nearer normal, USDA on September 26 announced that it had granted individual users delivery of

each type of the oil (raw, boiled, blown, alkali refined, otherwise refined, and polymerized) up to the equivalent of two-thirds of the quantity of each type used in the previous calendar quarter. This action was taken through amendment 2 to WFO 124, effective September 27. Previously, users were limited to one-third of the quantity of each type used in the previous calendar quarter.

The amended order also increased the total quantity of linseed oil that any person might own in physical inventory or on contract for future delivery from a 3 to a 12 months' supply based on his quotas, if he is subject to WFO 42a. Consumers not subject to WFO 42a may own a 12 months' supply, based on their use in the first 6 months of 1945. This increase, it was announced, would permit crushers to operate normally in their sales of linseed oil during the heavy seasonal period just beginning.

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FAT QUOTA INCREASED FOR SHORTENING AND SALAD OILS

USDA announced on October 2 that by amendment to WFO 42 a 4 percent increase in the quota of fats and oils for use in shortening and cooking and salad oils would be provided for the calendar quarter beginning October 1, 1945. This was an emergency allocation in addition to the already established quota of 88 percent of the average use in the base period 1940-41. The purpose of the additional quota was to relieve area shortages and to provide for better distribution among classes of users. The quota percentage applicable to margarine manufacturers—95 percent of 1944 usage—remained unchanged.

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NEW INCREASE IN FLUE-CURED TOBACCO ALLOCATIONS

Reflecting the all-time record production of flue-cured tobacco indicated in the October 10 General Crop Report, the U. S. Department of Agriculture on October 18 further increased allocations of flue-cured tobacco to manufacturers and dealers through an amendment to WFO 4.10. The latest crop estimates place 1945 production of flue-cured tobacco at 1,201,000,000 pounds.

Allocations to dealers and manufacturers are increased by an additional 40 million pounds. Under the new amendment to WFO 4.10, manufacturers may acquire flue-cured tobacco up to 110 percent of the quantity (including scrap) used by them for manufacturing purposes from July 1, 1944, through June 30, 1945. Manufacturers allocations for purchase at auction and from dealers are fixed in the same proportion of total purchases as were similarly acquired from the crops of 1939 through 1942.

Dealers may purchase 1945-crop flue-cured tobacco at auction, for their own accounts, up to 135 percent of the basic quantity which they were entitled to buy from the 1944 crop under provisions of WFO 4.7, amendment 4.

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DRY BEANS SET-ASIDE SUSPENDED

All set-asides of dry beans for military and other Government purchases were suspended indefinitely by USDA effective October 1.

Dealers are required, however, to hold for delivery to Government agencies and authorized purchasers the quantities set aside through September 30 and to continue to make monthly reports under the provisions WFO 45.1.

WFO 45 was put into effect in 1943 for the purpose of assuring to the armed forces and Government procurement agencies the quantities of beans needed to meet military, lend-lease, and other requirements.

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COCOA BEAN PROCESSING QUOTAS INCREASED

Quotas for processors of cocoa beans have been raised by USDA from 70 to 85 percent of grindings during the corresponding quarter of 1941. This action was taken in amendment 4 to WFO 25.1, effective October 1.

The increase in the processing of cocoa beans for civilian use was made possible by cutbacks in military requirements of chocolate products since the end of the war. However, stocks of cocoa beans in this country and prospective imports did not yet justify complete removal of grinding limitations, it was stated.

Restrictions on distribution of chocolate products for use in the manufacture of confectionery items to fill quota-exempt orders were removed by an amendment to WFO 25, also effective October 1. This amendment removed the restrictions upon the manufacture of chocolate novelty items which were in effect throughout the war.

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RICE SET-ASIDE REDUCED

Beginning October 1, 1945, only 40 percent of the production of milled rice must be set aside for military and other Government purchases.

Wool-Shrinkage Tests

For a long time sheepmen have been dissatisfied with estimates of wool shrinkage based on visual and tactile examination. A shrinkage test was needed because a fleece when it comes from a sheep is not all wool. Mixed in with the wool fibers are varying amounts of grease, sand and dirt, moisture, dried perspiration, burs, seeds, and other foreign matter--all of which scouring removes. The difference in weight between cleaned wool and the original wool is called shrinkage. Until recently there was no practical way of taking from large lots of wool small samples that would accurately represent the shrinkage of the entire lot.

The average wool shrinkage for the United States is about 60 percent. But this varies all the way from a low of 30 percent to as high as 80 percent. Regions within some States differ as much as 35 percent, and individual clips differ from year to year as much as 7 percent.

These variations between wools from different areas and between different lots of wool indicate the difficulty which confronts an experienced wool judge in estimating shrinkage. But sheepmen have had to sell their wool "in the grease" (that is, before it is scoured) and to depend on human judgment in determining the shrinkage. To realize what this means, take a 5 percent overestimate of the shrinkage on an 18,000-pound clip (about what one range band of sheep would produce in a year). Five percent of 18,000 pounds is 900 pounds. At 45 cents a pound that would amount to \$405, which the sheepman would lose if his wool were estimated 5 percent too heavy in shrinkage. Actual tests have shown that many estimates are even more than 5 percent off.

Coring Machine

To develop a more accurate method of determining shrinkage, the Department of Agriculture began a testing program in 1938. To get representative samples from large lots of wool, the Department used the coring machine which had been developed by the Treasury Department's Bureau of Customs. This machine consists of an electric hand drill which rotates an attached cylinder 18 inches long and 2 inches wide. To this cylinder is attached a toothed blade that cuts out a neat core from a bale or bag of wool. By this simple process a number of cores are taken to make up a representative test sample.

Purchase after April 1943 of the entire domestic clip by the Commodity Credit Corporation and its valuation by Government appraisers afforded an unusual opportunity to carry the investigations forward on a large scale. As an example of the investigations, 91 lots of Texas 1944 fall wools were core-sampled and the core shrinkage results were compared with the official appraisal estimates. The range of errors ran from a high (+) of 10.4 percent to a low (-) of 3.3 percent. Conversion of the 91 percentage

differences to pounds as applied to the individual lots, and use of an average price of \$1.04 received per pound by the growers for the clean wool content of these lots, gives a total loss to the 91 Texas growers of \$26,529.34. These results, which are much more accurate than the estimates, would guarantee more equitable returns to the wool growers if they should sell their wools on the reliable and objective basis of a coring test.

The data have shown the core shrinkage method to be both practical of application and by far the most accurate means of determining shrinkage available thus far to the wool industry.

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ADDITIONAL SUGAR ANTICIPATED FROM "STEFFENS HOUSES" TRANSPORTATION AIDS

USDA announced on October 22 that the final outrun of refined sugar from the 1945 beet crop was expected to be increased by 17,000 to 20,000 tons over prior estimates owing to a transportation aid program financed through the Commodity Credit Corporation. The additional sugar is to be reclaimed from beet molasses by reprocessing by what the trade terms "Steffens houses"--special molasses processors.

It was estimated that about 50,000 tons of 1945-crop straight-run beet molasses would be held at points somewhat distant from Steffens houses and could not be profitably shipped to these processors without Government transportation aid. This amount of molasses will yield from 17,000 to 20,000 tons of sugar which will become available for distribution during the first quarter of 1946, when offshore sugar receipts are generally smallest.

Transportation aid offered through CCC is as follows: On 1945-crop beet molasses shipped to Steffens houses for the extraction of sugar, CCC will absorb all freight costs above the first \$1 per ton--up to a total absorption of \$5, with any above this figure only by approval of CCC.

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SUGAR DELIVERIES QUOTA CONTROL FOR CIVILIANS SUSPENDED

Quotas covering deliveries of sugar by primary distributors for the October-December 1945 quarter have been announced by USDA. This action, effected by WFO 131.1, amendment 4, reset noncivilian quotas and removed specific quotas for deliveries into civilian channels.

Fourth-quarter allowable sugar deliveries (refined, short tons) are: To USDA, 33,465 tons; to Government agencies other than USDA and War Shipping Administration, 102,174 tons; to authorized purchasers, 73,035 tons. These revised quotas are about 113,000 tons less than previous quotas, largely due to decreased military requirements. In accordance with fourth-quarter allocations previously announced, U. S. civilians are scheduled to receive 918,000 tons of refined sugar during the October-December 1945 quarter.

The action taken did not affect current sugar-rationing regulations. Ration evidence used in connection with the purchase of sugar by noncivilian users will continue to be transferred outside of ration bank accounts.

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SET-ASIDE ON FRESH APPLES IN THE NORTHWEST ANNOUNCED

To meet the requirements of the armed forces and other Government agencies for fresh apples, USDA on October 2 announced a set-aside of Winesap and Delicious apples in the Wenatchee-Okanogan and Yakima areas, and of Winesap, Delicious, and Newtown varieties in the Hood River area.

Under WFO 143, effective October 3, no handler in the 3 areas who handles a total of 500 or more bushels of Winesap, Delicious, or Newtown varieties may purchase, sell, ship, or deliver any of the 3 varieties unless he sets aside for Government purchase a quantity of such apples of the fancy or higher grades of sizes 100 to 163 inclusive, equivalent to 25 percent of the total quantity of C or higher grades of the 216 and larger sizes of each of the specified varieties which he owns or controls at the effective time of the order and of which he acquires ownership or control thereafter.

Any handler may substitute sizes 175 or 180 in the set-aside apples of the Winesap variety but not to exceed 10 percent. Apples sold to a Government agency must be packed in a manner acceptable to such agency. The Golden Delicious variety is excluded from the set-aside provisions of the order. Release of any lot of set-aside apples not needed by Government agencies is provided for.

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SUSPENSION OF STORAGE LIMITATIONS CONTINUED THROUGH OCTOBER

USDA has extended through October 31 the suspension effective in 25 States of provisions of WFO 111 limiting the quantity and storage time of many commodities in public freezer or cooler space.

ABOUT MARKETING:

The following reports and publications, issued recently, may be obtained upon request. To order, check on this page the publications desired, detach, and mail to the Production and Marketing Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Addresses:

Radio Serves the Farmer, by Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, over stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company. September 15, 1945. 2 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Common Sense About Cotton, by Clinton P. Anderson, Secretary of Agriculture, at Blytheville, Ark., on the occasion of the National Cotton Picking Contest. October 5, 1945. 12 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Reports:

Grading Soft Red Winter Wheat at Country Points. AIS 33. (Extension Service) October 1945. Folder. (Printed.)

Official Standard Grades for Dark Air-Cured Tobacco (U. S. Types 35, 36, and 37). August 20, 1945. 12 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Labeling Insecticides Containing DDT (Revised). September 1, 1945. 6 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Handling and Storing Soft Corn on the Farm. September 1945. U. S. Dept. Agr. Farmers' Bul. 1976, 13 pp. (Printed.)

Livestock, Meats, and Wool Market Statistics and Related Data 1944. CS-14. September 1945. 77 pp. (Multilithed.)

Retail Distribution and Consumer Acceptance of Dry Milks in Houston, Texas. (Bureau of Agricultural Economics) August 1945. 44 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Comparative Significance of Alternative Cotton Fiber Length and Strength Measures in Relation to Yarn Strength (Preliminary Report). September 1945. 62 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Farmers' Response to Price in the Production of Potatoes 1922-41. (Bureau of Agricultural Economics) July 1945. 10 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Southern Rice Market Dominated by War Conditions During 1944-45. September 1945. 14 pp. (Mimeographed.)

Quality of Cotton in the Carry-Over, United States, August 1, 1945. October 12, 1945. 10 pp. (Mimeographed.)

